

INTERVIEWER So now for a little presentation of the Imagine Life Project which is one of the first projects from the cyou1 community. I am pleased to welcome Gilles and his colleagues. He is going to talk to us a little bit about the idea of the project and where they're at at the moment.

GILLES: So Imagine life is a project which was created in December by the members of the iGEM team. This is a team which participates in a world competition of synthetic biology. We started with an idea which was to create a group to : first try to popularize synthetic biology, so to explain it to the general public to show them what we do, how we do it, what are the advantages, what are the risks? Secondly, we wanted to try and organize debates around this theme in order to get opinions by experts in this domain, of people working in ethics, and also the point of view of people who aren't necessarily in this domain and don't necessarily have objective points of views or points of views which we would expect on the topic. These people show us how we are viewed from the outside world. That was really the point of our project. To make it happen we had the idea to create a survey and to publish it online as well as to do street interviews to interview people randomly and find their point of view.

Ok! So you've already finished your survey, which we could actually test on the CYOU1 platform to have an idea of what people think of this online survey. Then to try to come with this survey with an iPad, that's the idea right? And hop! You're on the streets...

Exactly, on the streets of Bordeaux, on a Sunday afternoon!

And then... What. ? We're going to see a little extract soon but what do you prefer, to comment now or later?

We could say that it was a little bit complicated to get answers... People were willing to answer our questions happily but getting the authorization to be filmed was a little bit complicated...

Already to understand how it is going to be used, it might scare people...

Yes, they didn't seem too reassured since they didn't know the subject very well...

Maybe scared to say something incorrect... ok let's look at a small extract!

[EXTRACT: We apologize for the technical sound problem]

3:30 That wasn't very clear on a technical manner but maybe we can put a link online to look at the interviews so people can see a bit what that looks like. But either way, that was an interesting exercise for you to see that the technique works and to see what problems you could have, to start asking people their point of view and to have a bit of feedback!

Yes! After, organizing questions is a little complicated since we, as scientists, are fully in this

domain and there are things that are, for us, obvious but to be able to explain it, it isn't necessarily an easy task.

I'd say it's the whole goal of your project!

Yes exactly, to explain synthetic biology!

And so the next steps are what? What do you plan on doing? You survey, probably? You would like to test it, to share it with a large amount of people via internet?

To have more film would be perfect in order to have a wide variety of responses. Then it would be interesting to organize debates around these responses, to take the advice people gave us and to organize small reunions to be able to talk together. Do we have the same opinions, the same way to view the topic? What is part of assumptions, And on the long term our ambition is to meet with ethic professionals and discuss with them our project results and to organize a conference.

You could, for example use the opinions of people who were filmed to feed the debate?

Yes, completely!